#### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

JOSEFINA ROQUE AND PERLA LEDEZMA, INDIVIDUALLY, A/N/F SXXX RXXX, MINOR CHILD, Plaintiffs,

Cause No.

v. VICTORIA'S SECRET STORES, LLC, Defendant.

#### **INDEX OF MATTERS FILED**

Defendant, pursuant to Local Rule 81(5), respectfully submits the following documents in connection with the removal of the above-styled and numbered action.

- 1. A copy of the Case Summary (docket) sheet for the case styled *Josefina Roque et al. v.* Victoria's Secret Stores, LLC, Cause No. 2021-DCL-00985-I, in the District court for the 445<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, Cameron County, Texas.
- 2. A copy of Plaintiff's Original Petition.
- 3. A copy of the executed process (return of service) on Victoria's Secret Stores, LLC.
- 4. A copy of Defendant's Original Answer.
- 5. List of counsel of record.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Christopher L. Kurzner

Christopher L. Kurzner State Bar No. 11769100

Kurzner PC

1700 Pacific Avenue, Suite 1870

Dallas, Texas 75201

Telephone: 214-442-0800 Telecopier: 214-442-0850 ckurzner@kurzner.com

Attorney for Defendant Victoria's Secret Stores,

LLC

Index of Matters Filed Page 1

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on March 25, 2021, I electronically transmitted the foregoing document to the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF System for filing and transmittal to all counsel of record by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, as follows:

Jorge A. Green Leticia Garza David M. Roerig THE GREEN LAW FIRM, P.C. 34 S. Coria St. Brownsville, Texas 78520.

/s/ Christopher L. Kurzner

Christopher L. Kurzner

## Case 1:21-cv-00042 Document DisFiled COL Q3/25/21 in TXSD Page 3 of 18

## CASE SUMMARY CASE No. 2021-DCL-00985

00000

Josefina Roque, Perla Ledezma vs. Victoria's Secret

Stores, LLC

Judicial Officer: Rincones, Gloria M

Location: 445th District Court

Filed on: 02/18/2021

#### CASE INFORMATION

Case Type: Other Injury or Damage

DATE

#### CASE ASSIGNMENT

**Current Case Assignment** 

Case Number

Court

Date Assigned Judicial Officer 2021-DCL-00985 445th District Court

02/18/2021

Rincones, Gloria M

PARTY INFORMATION

**Plaintiff** Ledezma, Perla Lead Attorneys

GREEN, JORGE A. Retained

(956)542-7000(W)

Roque, Josefina

GREEN, JORGE A. Retained

(956)542-7000(W)

Defendant

Victoria's Secret Stores, LLC

**KURZNER, CHRISTOPHER** 

**LOUIS** Retained

214-442-0801(W)

DATE **EVENTS & ORDERS OF THE COURT**  INDEX

02/18/2021

Original Petition (OCA)

Plaintiff's Original Petition

02/18/2021

Efiled Original Petition Document

Plaintiff Original Petition

02/22/2021

Citation Issued

Party: Defendant Victoria's Secret Stores, LLC

citation emailed to VSerna a thegreenlaw firm.com, CCH

02/22/2021

Citation

Victoria's Secret Stores, LLC

served 02/23/2021

03/03/2021

Service Return

Citation & Affidavit of Service

03/19/2021

Original Answer

Party: Defendant Victoria's Secret Stores, LLC

Original Answer on Defendant Victoria Secret Stores, LLC

03/23/2021

Motion

## Case 1:21-cv-00042 Documepts1n1DisFilled CouR3/25/21 in TXSD Page 4 of 18

# CASE SUMMARY CASE NO. 2021-DCL-00985

Plaintiff's Motion for Trial Setting

03/23/2021

E-Filed Order
Order Setting Hearing (Q)

DATE	FINANCIAL INFORMATIO	FINANCIAL INFORMATION	
Plaintiff Roqu			
Total Charges		315.00	
Total Payment	s and Credits	315.00	
	ns of 3/25/2021	0.00	

Case 1:21-cv-00042 Document 1-1 Filed on 03/25/21 in TXSDFILE@G@/F8@62485:05 PM 2021-DCL-00985 / 50706028

2021-DCL-00985 / 50706028 LAURA PEREZ-REYES Cameron County District Clerk By Christina Chavez Deputy Clerk

CAUSE NO	2021-DCL-00985	
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JOSEFINA ROQUE AND PERLA LEDEZMA, INDIVIDUALLY, A/N/F	§ §	IN THE DISTRICT COURT
SXXX RXXX, MINOR CHILD	§ §	Cameron County - 445th District Court
PLAINTIFΓS,	§ §	
VS.	§ s	JUDICIAL DISTRICT
VICTORIA'S SECRET STORES, LLC	§	
DEFENDANT	§	CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS
	<del></del>	

#### PLAINTIFFS' ORIGINAL PETITION

To The Honorable Judge of This Court:

Come Now Plaintiffs, Josefina Roque and Perla Ledezma, Individually, an as Next Friend of SXXX RXXX, complaining of Defendant Victoria's Secret Stores, LLC, and for causes of action file this Plaintiffs Original Petition. In support, Plaintiff would respectfully show the Court the following:

#### A. TRCP 47 Disclosure and Discovery Control Plan

- 1.1 Plaintiffs seek monetary relief of \$250,000.00 or less. *Tex.R.Civ.P.* 47. More specifically, Plaintiffs seek monetary relief not to exceed \$75,000.00.
- 1.2 Plaintiffs intend to conduct discovery under Level 1 of the Tex. R. Civ. P., as provided for in Tex. R. Civ. P. 169 for expedited actions.

### **B. Parties and Service**

- 2.1 Plaintiffs are individuals residing in Los Fresnos, Cameron County, Texas.
- 2.2 Defendant Victoria's Secret Stores, LLC is a foreign corporation registered with the Texas Secretary of State to do business in Texas. Defendant may be served with

process by serving its registered agent, CT Corporation System at 1999 Bryan St., Suite 900, Dallas, Texas 75201. Plaintiffs request citation at this time and will serve Defendant through a private civil process server.

#### C. Venue and Jurisdiction

- 3.1 This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action because Plaintiffs seek unliquidated damages in an amount within this Court's jurisdictional limits.
- 3.2 Venue is proper in Cameron County, Texas, under Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code §15.002(a)(1) because all or a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to Plaintiffs' cause of action occurred in Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas.

#### D. Facts

6. On or about November 17, 2019, Plaintiffs suffered injuries when they slipped and fell on lotion that was on the floor of the Victoria's Secret Store located inside the Sunrise Mall in Brownsville, Texas.

#### E. Causes of Action

#### Count One - Premises Liability

- 7. At all times material hereto, Defendant was the owner and/or possessor and/or operator of Victoria's Secret Store where Plaintiffs' incident occurred.
- 8. Defendant, its agents and its employees knew or should have known of the unreasonably dangerous condition. Despite such knowledge, Defendant and its agents and employees, negligently failed to warn Plaintiffs of the condition at the premises, or to otherwise make the premises safe. This condition existed despite the fact that Defendant,

its agents, and employees knew or should have known of the existence of the condition and that there was likelihood of a person being injured, as occurred to Plaintiffs.

- 9. At all times relevant, Defendant, and its agents, servants, and employees who were acting in the scope of their employment, were guilty of negligent conduct toward Plaintiff in:
  - a) Failing to maintain the premises in reasonably safe condition;
  - b) Failing to give adequate and understandable warnings to Plaintiffs regarding the unsafe condition of the premises;
- 10. Plaintiffs were invitees on the premises at the time of their injuries and other damages. At the time of the injury (1) a condition of the premises created an unreasonable risk of harm to the invitee; (2) the owner and/or possessor and/or operator knew or reasonably should have known of the condition; (3) owner and/or possessor and/or operator failed to exercise ordinary care to protect the invitee from danger; and (4) owner's and/or possessor's and/or operator's failure was a proximate cause of the injury to the invitee

#### Prayer

- 15. Wherefore, premises considered, Plaintiffs respectfully pray that Defendant be cited to appear and answer, and that they ultimately have judgment against Defendant for the following:
  - a. Physical pain in the past and future;
  - b. Mental anguish in the past and future;
  - c. Physical impairment in the past and future;

- d. Physical disfigurement in the past and future;
- e. Medical expenses in the past and future;
- f. Costs of suit;
- g. Pre-judgment and post-judgment interest; and
- h. All other relief, in law and in equity, to which Plaintiffs may be entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

THE GREEN LAW FIRM, P.C.

34 S. Coria St. Brownsville, Texas 78520 (956) 542-7000 Tel. (956) 542-7026 Fax

By: 1st Jorge A. Green

JORGE A. GREEN
State Bar No. 24038023
jorge@thegreenlawfirm.com
LETICIA GARZA
State Bar No. 24092405
lety@thegreenlawfirm.com
DAVID M. ROERIG
State Bar No. 24060513
david@thegreenlawfirm.com

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS

2021-DCL-00985 / 51118322

#### **CITATION** – PERSONAL SERVICE – TRCP 99

LAURA PEREZ-REYES

Cameron County District Clerk

By Vilma Garcia Deputy Clerk

### THE STATE OF TEXAS

## 2021-DCL-00985-I

Josefina Roque

. VS

Victoria's Secret Stores, LLC

§ IN THE 445TH DISTRICT COURT

§ OF

§ CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS

TO Victoria's Secret Stores, LLC
Registered Agent CT Corporation System
1999 Bryan St Suite 900
Dallas TX 75201

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org." TRCP. 99

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to **Plaintiff Original Petition** at or before 10:00 o'clock A.M. on the Monday next after the expiration of 20 days after the date of service of this citation before the Honorable 445th District Court of Cameron County, at the Courthouse in said County in Brownsville, Texas. Said **Plaintiff Original Petition** was filed in said court on **February 18, 2021**, in the above entitled cause.

2021-DCL-00985-I

Josefina Roque, Perla Ledezma, SXXX RXXX vs. Victoria's Secret Stores, LLC

The nature of Petitioner's demand is fully shown by a true and correct copy of **Plaintiff Original Petition** accompanying this citation and made a part hereof.

The officer executing this writ shall promptly serve the same according to requirements of law, and the mandates thereof, and make due return as the law directs.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at Brownsville, Texas, on this the 22nd day of February, 2021.

ATTORNEY:

JORGE A. GREEN 24038023 (956) 542-7000 34 S Coria St Brownsville TX 78520



## **Laura Perez-Reyes**

District Clerk of Cameron County 974 E Harrison St. Brownsville, Texas 78520

By: Christing C.Ch.

Christina Chavez Deputy C

Christina Chavez, Deputy Clerk

\*\*AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE ATTACHED\*\*

2021-DCL-0 445th Distric			Perla Ledezma, SXXX RXXX vs. a's Secret Stores, LLC
	RETURI	N OF SERVICE	
Executed when copy is delivered This is a true copy of the original, 20	citation, was delivered to	o defendant	, on the day of
NAME/ADDRESS F	OR SERVICE		O ( T)/
			Gounty, 1X
		Ву:	Deputy
		ERS RETURN	
by delivering to each of the with	n named defendants in ereon, together with the	person, a true copy of this	a and County, Texas, S with e at
NAME	DATE/TIME	PLACE/COUR	RSE/DISTANCE FROM COURTHOUSE
And not executed as to the defen The diligence used in finding said and the cause or failure to execut and the information received as to	defendant(s) being:	d defendant(s) being:	
FEES:			Officer
SERVING PETITION/COPY \$ TOTAL: \$			County, TX
Ψ	<del></del>	Ву:	Deputy
			AFFIANT
COMPLETE IS VOLLADE A	DEDSON OTHER THAN	N A CUEDIEE CONCTADI	E OR CLERK OF THE COURT
In accordance with Rule 107: The	ne officer or authorized point in the sired to be verified. If the hall be signed under per	person who serves, or atter e return is signed by a per nalty or perjury and contain	
I DECLARE UNDER PENALTY OF EXECUTED in			ND CORRECT. of 20
ID Number/Expiration of Certifica	tion	Declarant/Authorized I	Process Server

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## **AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE**

CAUSE NO: 2021-DCL-00985-!

JOSEFINA ROQUE, Plaintiff,	IN THE DISTRICT COURT
Vs.	445TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
VICTORIA'S SECRET STORES, LLC, Defendant,	CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS
Documents: CITATION AND PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION	
I, Gean O. Smith, received the above documents on: FEBRUARY 22, 2021	at <u>5:00 P.M.</u> to be delivered to:
VICTORIA'S SECRET STORES, LLC REGISTERED AGENT, CT CORPORATION SYSTEM 1999 BRYAN STREET, SUITE 900 DALLAS, TEXAS 75201	
I,	uly sworn, depose and say, that I am duly authorized are above styled case. I am over the age of 18, and an occurred in the following manner:
By delivering to: VICTORIA'S SECRET STORES, LLC., BY AND THROUGH tall, 150 lbs, brown hair	TERRI THONGSAVAT (white female, age 38, 5'6"
(Title / Relationship): INTAKE ASSOCIATE FOR REGISTERED AGENT, (	CT CORPORATION SYSTEM
Address of Service: 1999 BRYAN STREET, SUITE 900, DALLAS, TEXAS	75201, (DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS)
Date of Service:FEBRUARY 23, 2021Time of Service:	10:55 A,M.
Type of Service:	
PERSONAL SERVICE: Individually and personally to the above named	recipient.
SUBSTITUTE SERVICE: By leaving a true copy of said process with a plisted address, which is the usual place of abode or dwelling house of the	person therein, who is of suitable age, at the above above named person.
CORPORATION / PARTNERSHIP: By delivering a true copy of said pro anyone available to accept service for the above named entity whose na	cess to an officer, registered agent, partner or me and title is listed above.
POSTING WITH COURT ORDER: By posting a true copy of said proceed date of service endorsed thereon by me, to the front entrance of the above of abode or dwelling house of the above named person, in compliance we	ve listed address of service, which is the usual place
"I declare under penalties of perjury that the information co	entained herein is true and correct"
Hear O. Smith	
Signature	Subscribed and sworn to before me, a notary public on Franky 27, 2021
SHIRLEY NELL MCCLELLAN	Thung hele Milled

My Notary ID # 6985122 Expires September 21, 2021

The second of the second of

Notary Public in and of the State of Texas

2021-DCL-00985 / 51660880 LAURA PEREZ-REYES Cameron County District Clerk By Vilma Garcia Deputy Clerk

#### Cause No. 2021-DCL-00985

JOSEFINA ROQUE AND PERLA LEDEZMA,	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT
INDIVIDUALLY & a/n/f SXXX RXXX,	§	
MINOR CHILD,	§	
	§	
Plaintiffs,	§	
	§	
<b>v.</b>	§	CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS
	§	
VICTORIA'S SECRET STORES, LLC,	§	
	§	
	§	
	§	
Defendant.	§	445 <sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

# ORIGINAL ANSWER OF DEFENDANT VICTORIA'S SECRET STORES, LLC

Defendant Victoria's Secret Stores, LLC ("Defendant" or "VSS") through the undersigned counsel, answers Plaintiffs' Original Petition:

#### I. GENERAL DENIAL

Pursuant to Tex. R. Civ. P. 92, Defendant denies generally each and all of the allegations contained in Plaintiffs' Original Petition, demands strict proof thereof by preponderance of the evidence, and of this general denial prays judgment of the Court.

#### II. <u>AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES</u>

- 1. Subject to and without waiving the foregoing General Denial and by way of a separate or affirmative defense, Defendant alleges that Plaintiffs purported damages, if any, are barred or limited in whole or in part by Plaintiffs' own negligence pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 33, Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code.
- 2. Subject to and without waiving the foregoing General Denial and by way of a separate or affirmative defense to the extent such pleading may be necessary, Defendant hereby requests that the relative damages and conduct of all parties and all tortfeasors, including

Plaintiffs, Defendant, and any designated responsible third parties be considered, and that Defendant be accorded the full benefit of Chapter 33, Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code, including proportionate responsibility and contribution.

- 3. Subject to and without waiving the foregoing General Denial and by way of a separate or affirmative defense, Defendant alleges that the injuries/damages, if any, allegedly suffered by Plaintiffs were directly and proximately caused in whole or part by Plaintiffs' own negligence and/or negligence per se, which negligence and/or negligence per se was greater than any negligence of Defendant, and thus any recovery by Plaintiffs is barred.
- 4. Subject to and without waiving the foregoing General Denial and by way of a separate or affirmative defense, Defendant alleges that Plaintiffs' purported damages, if any, were caused in whole or in part by third parties or forces over whom Defendant had no control.
- 5. Subject to and without waiving the foregoing General Denial and by way of a separate or affirmative defense, Defendant alleges that Plaintiffs failed to mitigate their damages by not using ordinary care to reduce or avoid their damages, and that such failure to mitigate resulted in additional and unnecessary damages.
- 6. Subject to and without waiving the foregoing General Denial and by way of a separate or affirmative defense, Defendant alleges that Plaintiffs assumed the risk of the activities in which Plaintiffs were engaged and therefore, Plaintiffs cannot recover from Defendant.
- 7. Subject to and without waiving the foregoing General Denial and by way of a separate or affirmative defense to the extent such pleading may be necessary, Defendant hereby asserts that Plaintiffs' claims are barred or limited by the doctrine of equitable or judicial estoppel.

- 8. Subject to and without waiving the foregoing General Denial and by way of a separate or affirmative defense to the extent such pleading may be necessary, Defendant had no notice, actual or constructive, as to the alleged condition that Plaintiffs have alleged caused them to suffer injuries and damages.
- 9. Subject to and without waiving the foregoing General Denial and by way of a separate or affirmative defense, Defendant alleges that Plaintiffs' claims are barred by the open and obvious doctrine.
- 10. Subject to and without waiving the foregoing General Denial and by way of a separate or affirmative defense to the extent such pleading may be necessary, Plaintiffs' "right" to recover billed medical expenses is limited by the provisions of Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code § 41.0105 to the amount actually paid or incurred by or on behalf of the Plaintiffs.
- separate or affirmative defense, Defendant alleges that if Plaintiffs are suffering from any physical or mental condition or disability at the present time, or after the incident made the basis of this suit, that such condition or disability was solely caused by accidents, injuries, diseases, or disorders that were preexisting or that arose subsequent to the time of the alleged incident made the basis of this suit and are wholly unconnected with the incident made the basis of this suit, or that such conditions or disabilities were partially caused by such preexisting or subsequent accidents.
- 12. To the extent Plaintiffs seek damages for any alleged disability or incapacity as a result of the incident made the basis of this suit, then the disability or incapacity is temporary only and not permanent, and partial only and not total, and that Plaintiffs' earning capacity have

not been reduced or impaired as a result of the alleged injury and/or any disability or incapacity resulting therefrom.

- 13. To the extent Plaintiffs seek damages for alleged loss of earnings, loss of earning capacity, loss of contributions of a pecuniary value, or loss of inheritance, Plaintiffs must under Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code, Section 18.091 present such evidence to prove such loss in the form of a net loss after reduction for income tax payments or unpaid tax liability pursuant to any federal income tax law. The Court is also required to, and Defendant specifically requests the Court to, instruct the jury (if a jury is demanded) that such damages sought by Plaintiff are subject to federal or state income taxes.
- 14. Any award of pre-judgment or post-judgment interest is limited by Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code, Section 41.007 and the Texas Finance code generally.
- 15. In the unlikely event Plaintiffs obtain a damage finding against Defendant on multiple causes of action against it, Plaintiffs are prohibited from obtaining a double recovery and must make an election.

#### III. NOTICE OF INTENT TO USE PRODUCED MATERIALS

16. Defendant gives notice to all parties that any and all documents produced during discovery may be offered against the producing party at any pre-trial proceeding and/or trial of this case, unless objections based on authenticity are timely made. This notice is given pursuant to Rule 193.7 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.

WHEREFORE, Defendant respectfully requests that upon final trial and hearing, the Court enter judgment that Plaintiffs take nothing by reason of their claims, that Defendant be discharged and recover its costs and such other and further relief, both at law and in equity, to which Defendant may be justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

KURZNER PC

By: /s/ Christopher L. Kurzner

Christopher L. Kurzner State Bar No. 11769100 1700 Pacific Avenue, Suite 1870

Dallas, Texas 75201 Telephone: 214-442-0800 Telecopier: 214-442-0850

ckurzner@kurzner.com

COUNSEL FOR DEFENDANT VICTORIA'S SECRET STORES, LLC.

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing instrument to be served on Plaintiff via the Court's electronic case filing system or as may be otherwise provided under the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure on this the 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021.

/ / 61	1 7 72	
/s/ Christo	pher L. Kur	zner

## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

JOSEFINA ROQUE AND PERLA LEDEZMA, INDIVIDUALLY, A/N/F SXXX RXXX, MINOR CHILD, Plaintiffs,

v.

VICTORIA'S SECRET STORES, LLC, Defendant.

#### LIST OF COUNSEL OF RECORD

Defendant, pursuant to Local Rule 81(6), respectfully submits the following list of counsel of record.

Jorge A. Green Leticia Garza David M. Roerig THE GREEN LAW FIRM, P.C. 34 S. Coria St. Brownsville, Texas 78520 (956) 542-7000 Tel. (956) 542-7026 Fax

Counsel for Plaintiffs

Christopher L. Kurzner

Kurzner PC

1700 Pacific Avenue, Suite 1870

Dallas, Texas 75201

Telephone: 214-442-0800 Telecopier: 214-442-0850

Counsel for Defendant

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Christopher L. Kurzner

Christopher L. Kurzner State Bar No. 11769100

Kurzner PC

1700 Pacific Avenue, Suite 1870

Dallas, Texas 75201

Telephone: 214-442-0800 Telecopier: 214-442-0850 <u>ckurzner@kurzner.com</u>

Attorney for Defendant Victoria's Secret Stores, LLC

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## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on March 25, 2021, I electronically transmitted the foregoing document to the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF System for filing and transmittal to all counsel of record by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, as follows:

Jorge A. Green Leticia Garza David M. Roerig THE GREEN LAW FIRM, P.C. 34 S. Coria St. Brownsville, Texas 78520.

/s/ Christopher L. Kurzner

Christopher L. Kurzner